

Torrance, California
March 11, 1941

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, March 11, 1941 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held February 25, 1941 be approved as written. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from WALTERIA Civic Organization, re-

questing removal of the small park at the intersection of Hawthorne Boulevard and Newton Avenue in WALTERIA.

Councilman Babcock moved that the matter be referred to the Street Department for action. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Dr. Katherine F. Siekmann, requesting that a red parking zone be painted in front of her place of business.

Councilman Powell moved that the request be granted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Parent-Teachers-Association, requesting that the crossing at 220th Street and Martina Avenue be drained.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be referred to the Engineering Department for investigation and report. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the 4th Area Sons of The American Legion regarding the parade to be held June 7, 1941. It was requested that the following matters be approved: (1) parade route (2) closing of a portion of Cravens Avenue to parking during certain hours of June 7, and (3) placing of the reviewing stand on the steps of the City Hall.

Councilman Babcock moved that the above matter be approved and the requests granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A statement signed by six owners of property on Sonoma Street was read, in which it was agreed that the set-back line on the south side of Sonoma Street between Acacia Avenue and the alley West of Madrid Avenue be changed to allow the proposed entry to the First Lutheran Church in line up with the existing entry of the Parish Hall.

Councilman Hitchcock asked whether or not the six signatures represented all the property owners who would be affected. Engineer Jain advised that all the owners were represented with the exception of owner of property on the corner of Beech and Sonoma Streets, who resides in New Jersey, address unknown.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request to change the set-back line as above mentioned be granted. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Milky Williams Lodge, Local No. 1414, protesting purchase by the City of Torrance of any and all products manufactured by the Ford Motor Company until such time as said company complies with laws of the United States of America, and urging cancellation of contract entered into between the City of Torrance and the Ford Motor Company for purchase of two Ford busses. (Note: Purchase authorized February 25, 1941).

Councilman Babcock asked Attorney McCall whether or not a contract could legally be cancelled. Attorney McCall advised that a contract which has been entered into cannot legally be cancelled.

Mr. Beight in the assemblage cited the Newark, New Jersey case, in which, he asserted, the courts upheld the city in cancelling a contract after it had been entered into. He also said that the National Defense Committee had cancelled large contracts with Ford Motor Company due to said company's disregard of laws.

Councilman Powell stated that he is in full accord with the principles of unions of the United States, and that firms who comply with the national labor laws should be given full support. As to what action is in order now in connection with the purchase by the City of Torrance of two busses from Ford Motor Company, Mr. Powell pointed out that legal guidance should determine the course of action. He stated further that when the bids for busses were checked, it was disclosed that the Ford busses were the only ones meeting requirements of the City of Torrance.

Councilman Babcock stated that, although a mistake may have been

made, the contract was entered into in good faith because the busses met the requirements of the City and were the lowest in price, being approximately \$1,000.00 lower than any other bid received. He maintained that the unions should have contacted the Council before the purchase was made, and make the unions' attitude toward Ford Motor Company known.

Mr. Beight contended that anyone who reads the daily newspapers should know that Ford Motor Company is on the unfair list and be guided accordingly.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Council meet March 18, 1941 for the purpose of receiving an opinion from City Attorney McCall as to what action, if any, should be taken regarding the suggested cancellation of contract entered into between the City of Torrance and Schultz & Peckham, Agency of Ford Motor Company, for purchase of two Ford busses. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication dated March 7, 1941 from the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors was read, enclosing copy of an order adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 4, 1941, authorizing the use of any of the three methods described therein in arriving at valuations of tax-deeded properties proposed to be sold to municipalities.

The order was read in full.

Referred to the Associated Assessment Engineers.

Clerk Bartlett presented a request for extension of agreement with the State Relief Administration for assignment of Relief Workers and a Certification of Funds.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Clerk be authorized to request extension of Agreement for Assignment of Relief Workers, No. 198, Project No. 1612, to cover period from April 1, 1941 to June 30, 1941, inclusive. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Associated Assessment Engineers, urging the Council to adopt a resolution urging passage of Assembly Bill No. 1635 now pending before the State Legislature, which bill will permit the payment of taxes without penalties and interest and will be in effect for a period of one hundred and twenty (120) days.

Councilman Powell wanted to know what the object of adopting the bill would be. He said he would prefer to study the matter thoroughly before taking action. Councilman Hitchcock approved this idea, and suggested that the Associated Assessment Engineers be contacted by the City Clerk and asked to furnish additional information about the proposed bill.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1427

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF TORRANCE REQUESTING REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION OF COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TO
CHANGE NAME OF PROPOSED LOMITA AIRPORT TO
TORRANCE AIRPORT.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1427 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire gave a brief report of the League of California Cities Mayors' and Councilmens' meeting held in Fresno March 7 & 8, 1941. He said an interesting topic of discussion had been airports. He commented that a number of cities who acquire airports through the Defense Program may possibly be faced with the problem and expense of maintaining them after the immediate emergency ceases. In view of this fact, he continued, disappointment should not be felt if Torrance fails to acquire the proposed airport.

Councilman Murray added a few remarks pertaining to the Fresno meeting.

Attorney McCall reported that, in regard to the Cabrillo Avenue right of way matter, the case had been tried in the condemnation suit against the Pacific Electric Railway Company March 5, 1941 and that judgment had been ordered for the City of Torrance.

Councilman Powell moved that, in the future, no one be employed by the City without the knowledge of the entire Council and without the consent of a majority of the Council. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Murray moved that the City Clerk be instructed to write letters to every organization within the confines of the City of Torrance including Parent-Teacher Association, service clubs, labor organizations, and business clubs or organizations, notifying them that the City Council meets regularly on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month and urging that each of the organizations send a representative to the meetings; that each of the organizations be notified of special meetings as they are called. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

It was suggested that the organizations be requested to post a notice of the regular meeting dates of the Council on their bulletin board.

Councilman Powell moved that all labor organizations within the confines of the City of Torrance who have lists of firms they consider unfair to organized labor make said "unfair lists" available to the City Council. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock suggested that a resolution creating a City Bus Line department be adopted, at which time Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1428

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CREATING A MUNICIPAL BUS LINES DEPARTMENT.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1428 be adopted. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock moved that L. J. Gilmeister be appointed Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines at \$1.00 per year. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that the City Clerk be authorized to advertise for bids for a portable air compressor for Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Klusman asked again about an item appearing on the quarterly report of the Torrance Municipal Improvement District No. 1 as "unclassified investment" in the amount of \$38,000.00. He asserted that this amount represented funds on deposit in the bank and claimed the whole amount should be classified. He asked what the "unclassified investment" represented.

Mr. Stanger, Manager of the Water Department, explained to Mr. Klusman that the amount represented the difference in the appraised value set by the City Engineer at the time the water district was purchased and the actual amount paid for said water district.

Mayor McGuire advised Mr. Klusman he could examine the books of the City at any time he so desired, and offered to have the Clerk call Mr. Klusman personally and invite him to discuss the matter with the City Auditor the next time Mr. Cotton makes an audit.

Councilman Hitchcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mr. Dunsmore, 1027 Acacia Avenue, entered an oral objection to stores, especially markets, being allowed to occupy the sidewalk in conducting their businesses.

Mr. Dunsmore brought up the matter of garbage collections, stating that collections are made from the front of the street where he resides instead of in the alley at the rear as is done everywhere else throughout the City. Michael Straszer of the Torrance Herald substantiated Mr. Dunsmore's allegation and said collections from the alley would be appreciated.

Clerk Bartlett was instructed to notify Mr. Green, Garbage Collector, to begin making his collections on Acacia Street from the alley and to notify the residents of Acacia Street to place their garbage containers in the alley.

Councilman Babcock inquired whether or not an ordinance is in effect which regulates distance upon public sidewalks stores can place their wares. Clerk Bartlett replied in the affirmative. Chief Stroh advised that the ordinance allows them only one foot on the public sidewalk.

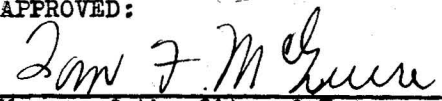
After considerable discussion between various persons in the assemblage and the Council, Chief Stroh was authorized to make an investigation of the condition complained of and make a report at the earliest possible date.

Engineer Jain asked whose responsibility it is to collect for broken or damaged lamp poles, damaged streets, etc. He said his department had made several efforts to collect from a certain person who signed a promissory note, but to date had been unable to collect. He related that various reports had been given him to the effect that the Police Department, the Engineering Department and the City Attorney's Office should assume the responsibility of collections. He asked for a definite ruling as to where the responsibility lies.

At 9:15 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Murray, the meeting adjourned to March 18, 1941 at 4:45 P.M.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance